Handloom mark; 562 weavers have been covered under Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Rs. 1.84 lakhs have been disbursed to 159 weavers and 644 weavers have been covered under Health Insurance Scheme. In addition, Pochampalli Ikkat has already been registered under the Geographical Indication (GI) Act on 31st December, 2004; 32 weavers have been given Rs. 14.40 lakhs under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; 722 weavers have been sanctioned old age pension and Rs. 17.80 lakhs have been provided to 89 Pochampalli weavers under Artisan Credit Cards.

Re-examining of SEZ Scheme

*135. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are re-examining the policy and the law governing Special Economic Zones;

(b) whether the establishment of SEZs is kept on hold;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry for early implementation of the SEZ scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Number of representations on various issues including land acquisition were placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) which observed that further deliberations are needed before any new approvals for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are given and decided that no new SEZ approvals be granted till a final view is taken by EGOM.

(d) Miscellaneous approvals required for 63 already notified SEZs are considered by the Government regularly. However, fresh notifications and approvals for setting up SEZs are presently not being issued pending decision by the EGOM.